

**Barnard Castle Rural District
Council**

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

with the

Report of the

Sanitary Inspector

for the Year 1938

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BARNARD CASTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.
ANNUAL REPORT
of
THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year 1938, a year, owing to the World Crisis, of vastly increased legislature with resulting heavy calls upon the personnel of the Health Services.

In April, 1939, I was appointed Medical Officer to the Rural and to the Urban Districts of this Area and Medical Officer to the Marwood Isolation Hospital. In addition, part of my time is devoted to the Durham County Council's Health Services.

The long-drawn-out winter reaped a heavy mortality rate among the old people. More than half of the total deaths occurred in persons of 65 years and over. Deaths from Cancer showed the low total of 30, in spite of the larger proportion of the population now surviving to a greater age when Cancer is more prevalent. As one would expect, diseases of the heart and blood vessels exact a heavy toll among the old people owing to the fact that the heart muscle wears out from the burden of many years of toil and strife. Happily, there were only a few cases of serious infectious diseases, although Scarlet Fever still pursues an endemic trend. A branch of preventive medicine which is causing me some unrest is that of Diphtheretic Immunization. At the moment, with regard to this subject, we are far from being in a happy position. My estimate of the child population of 2-11 years is 3,000, of which approximately one-tenth are immunized. When one recollects that diphtheria is always with us and that every five years or so there is an increase in the incidence of the disease, it is obvious that a campaign for immunization will soon have to be effected. Infantile sickness and infant mortality rates still show a satisfactory state.

Considerable progress has been made with the housing programme. During the year 16 Clearance Orders were confirmed. At Evenwood 36 houses are under notice for demolition and repairs. Although this is satisfactory as far as it goes, there still remains a large amount, mostly in the eastern area, of insanitary and defective property which will have to be rectified in the near future. One should always have in view the fact that respiratory diseases, rheumatism, infective fevers, and many minor ills, show a definite and progressive increase as the houses deteriorate.

That comparatively new-comer of preventive disability—A.R.P. Science—has made serious inroads on the time of all health officials. The wisdom or otherwise, of inflicting a purely military subject upon civil authorities is not one that can be advantageously discussed here. The demands of this subject are so vast and exacting that one cannot help feeling that some other parts of our Public Health machinery will inadvertently receive less attention than they otherwise would.

Although my time with you has been brief, I have already great cause to thank the Councillors and Officials for their help in aiding me to fulfil my duties. Your late Medical Officer, Dr. Dawson, has been particularly helpful and always ready to assist me on matters appertaining to my office.

REGINALD C. F. SMITH,
Medical Officer of Health.

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graph TD
    DHS[Department of Health and Human Services] --> State
    DHS --> Federal
    State --> NHI[National Health Insurance]
    State --> Medical
    Federal --> FI[Factory Inspection]
    Federal --> Vol[Voluntary, Etc.]
    NHI --> MB[Maternity Benefit]
    NHI --> SB[Sickness Benefit]
    NHI --> DB[Disability Benefit]
    NHI --> Drugs
    Medical --> Medical
    Medical --> Lay
    FI --> Medical
    FI --> Lay
    Vol --> NH[Nursing Homes]
    Vol --> PP[Private Practitioners]
    Vol --> NA[Nurses Association]
  
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		M.O.H.	
Sanitary Inspector A.R.P. Offensive Trades Registration of Milk & Ice Cream Tents, Vans, Sheds Scavenging Merchandise Marks' Acts Slaughter Houses Meat Inspection Tuberculosis on Farms Inspection of places of Public Entertainment Tenements, Housing	Shops' Acts	Clerks Typists	Infectious Diseases
			Fever Hospital Treatment Ambulance Services Immunization Disinfection
		Supervision of all local Health Services	School Medical Inspection (Elementary & Secondary) Juvenile Unemployment (centres, special cases for houses of M.D.s, Open Air, Cripples, Sanatoria, Day and Residential Schools Camps, Intending Teachers, Scouts, Lectures, Home Visits.

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Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health, Reginald C. F. Smith, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.,
Medical Certifier under the Mental Deficiency Acts, Etc.

Sanitary Inspector, John George Middleton, Member of the Sanitary
Inspectors Association and Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

Public Vaccinators, Drs. Leishman, Ward, Hickey, Anderson, and
Dawson.

SECTION "A."

General Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (acres)	110,069
Registrar General's estimate of resident population mid-1938	17,350
Registrar General's modified estimate, for statistical purposes, as the area was sub- ject to change of boundary during the year	15,480
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books	5,446
Rateable value	£58,382
Sum represented by a penny rate	£218

The chief industries are agriculture, coal mining and stone quarry-
ing.

The incidence of unemployment in the area is shown by the follow-
ing average yearly returns which I have obtained from the Divisional Con-
troller, Ministry of Labour, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Local Office	13th March, 1939.			14th March, 1938.		
	Men (18-64)	Women (18-64)	TOTAL (18-64)	Men (18-64)	Women (18-64)	TOTAL (18-64)
Cockfield ...	803	15	823	541	10	551
Gainford ...	68	4	72	93	1	94
Middleton- in-Teesdale	132	1	133	201	1	202
TOTALS...	908	20	928	835	12	847

Juveniles (aged 14-17) for the above areas are registered at Bishop
Auckland Juvenile Employment Bureau.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

			TOTAL	Male	Female
Live Births:	Legitimate	} 246 {	226	122	104
	Illegitimate		20	9	11

Live Birth Rate, 14.1 per 1,000 of the Population.

Corresponding Rate for England and Wales, 15.1, and for 148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census) 15.4.

			TOTAL	Male	Female
Still Births:	Legitimate	} 11 {	11	7	4
	Illegitimate		0	0	0

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 42.7
(or 0.60 per 1,000 of the population).

Corresponding Rate for England and Wales, 0.60 per 1,000 of population and for 148 Smaller Towns 0.64.

	TOTAL	Male	Female
Deaths.	224	128	96

Death Rate per 1,000 of Population	12.9
For England and Wales	... 11.6
For 148 Smaller Towns	... 11.0

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	DEATHS	RATE per 1,000 total (live and still births)
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
Other Puerperal causes	0	0
Rate for England and Wales (totals)		3.08

Deaths of Infants under 1 year.

	Male	Female
Total	9	4
Legitimate	9	3
Illegitimate	0	1

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	...	...	...	53.8
England and Wales	...	...	...	53
148 Smaller Towns	...	...	...	51
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	...	...	...	53.8
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	30
„ „ Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	0
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	2

Causes of Death.

	Male	Female	TOTAL
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	0	0	0
Measles	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	1	0	1
Whooping Cough	0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	2	2
Influenza	1	2	3
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0	0
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	1	3	4
Other Tuberculosis	0	0	0
Syphilis	0	0	0
General Paralysis of the Insane, etc. ...	0	0	0
Cancer	15	15	30
Diabetes	2	2	4
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	10	11	21
Heart Diseases	37	21	58
Aneurysm	0	0	0
Other Circulatory Diseases	10	5	15
Bronchitis	2	5	7
Pneumonia all forms	6	2	8
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	1	4
Peptic Ulcer	2	0	2
Diarrhœa (under 2 yr.)	1	1	2
Appendicitis	0	0	0
Cirrhosis of Liver	0	0	0
Other Diseases of Liver	0	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	2	3	5
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	2	6	8
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0	0
Other Puerperal Diseases	0	0	0
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth ...	8	3	11
Senility	2	5	7
Suicide	1	1	2
Other Violence	10	0	10
Other Defined Diseases	11	7	18
Causes ill-defined or not known	1	0	1
Totals ...	128	96	224

SECTION "B."

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

The details of the Staff are incorporated at the beginning of the report.

Laboratory Facilities.

As in former years laboratory work to assist practitioners in the diagnosis of cases of diphtheria, enteric fever, tuberculosis and venereal diseases, etc., was carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

Ambulance Facilities.

There is one ambulance at Randolph Colliery, Evenwood, and recently the Darlington Memorial Hospital was presented with an ambulance for the use of contributors under the Memorial Hospital Contributory Scheme. Ambulances are available for Infectious fever cases; otherwise, the ambulance facilities for the district are totally inadequate; and this deficiency in equipment will become more apparent as schemes for Air Raid Precautions mature.

School Medical Services.

Children attending elementary schools are examined by your Medical Officer of Health as part of his duties with the Durham County Council.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Child Welfare Centres administered by the Durham County Council are held at Butterknowle, Cockfield, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Staindrop, and Witton Park.

Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.

There is only the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Marwood which is controlled by the Auckland, Shildon and Willington Joint Hospital Board. The hospital has 12 beds for scarlet fever cases and 14 for cases of diphtheria and there is one resident nurse in charge. Cases of infectious diseases from the Eastern Area are sent to Tindal Crescent Hospital, Bishop Auckland.

SECTION "C."

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

1. (i.) Water.—The Upper Teesdale Water Supply passing through Forest, Bowlees and Newbiggin was completed during the year.
No systematic bacteriological investigations are carried out of water supplies controlled by the Council but water supplies under the control of the Tees Valley Water Board and the Durham County Water Board are regularly examined.
- (ii.) Drainage and Sewerage.—Improvements were carried out at the Cockfield sewage disposal works and large schemes were planned for sewerage works for Evenwood and Barony, Lynesack and Softley, and Woodland.
- (iii.) No cases of Typhoid occurred during the year.
2. Rivers and Streams.—No pollution was detected during the year.
3. (i.) Closet Accommodation.—Schemes are in preparation for the conversion of ash-closets of the worst type to the water carriage system and when it is known that the proportion of ash-closets and ash-pit privies to water closets is as high as 4 to 1 then we must realise that we have scarcely yet emerged from a state of primitive sanitation and I urge the Council to make these schemes operative as soon as possible.

- (ii.) Public Cleansing.—Scavenging and refuse disposal are carried out by the contracts let annually. This may be the only method at present but the system should be reviewed from time to time so as to get more unified control and more direct supervision by the Council.
 - (iii.) Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—A tabular statement is found under the Sanitary Inspector's report, which shows a total of 5,854 inspections carried out. From the fact that housing inspections accounted for 1,132 of these visits, we can realise the importance that is being placed upon one of the big problems of the area.
 - (iv.) Shops.—No formal notices were required under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences.
 - (v.) Smoke Abatement.—Only one informal notice was found necessary.
 - (vi.) Swimming Baths and Pools.—There are no such baths or pools in the area.
 - (vii.) Eradication of Bed Bugs.—Action in this respect has been undertaken by the Sanitary Inspectors and is given in their report.
4. The sanitary conditions and water supplies of schools are generally satisfactory but those schools without water supplies should receive the early consideration of the Council.

SECTION "D."

Housing.

The statistical report given by the Sanitary Inspector indicates the progress that is being made in the improvement of property for the agricultural population or persons of similar economic means under the Housing (Rural) Workers Act.

There were no new houses built by the Local Authority and only 18 by private enterprise. The situation is receiving the closest investigation, schemes are being developed and definite progress is being made.

The total number of overcrowded houses is 186, situated as follows:—Evenwood and Barony, Cockfield, Lynesack and Softley, Middleton-in-Teesdale, West Auckland, Staindrop, Woodland, Ingletton, Eggleston, Forest and Frith, Newbiggin, Winston, Hilton, Marwood, Stratlam and Stainton, Wackerfield, Hamsterley, Gainford, Headlam, Langton, and Whorlton.

SECTION "E."

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Records are fully reported in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

- (a) Milk Supply.—Of the milk producers only five per cent. produce accredited or T.T. milk; this is a very low percentage but there is evidence that the number is steadily increasing.

- (b) Meat and other Foods.—Frequent inspections were carried out and details are given later in the report.
- (c) Adulteration, etc.—The only action taken by your officials under Regulations 1923—29 was in respect of milk sampling.
- (d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.—Milk supplies only.
- (e) Nutrition.—There were no special investigations carried out.
- (f) Shell-fish.—This section does not apply to the district.

SECTION "F."

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

Thirteen cases of Diphtheria were notified, the rate being 0.74 per 1,000 of the population compared with a rate of 1.49 for England and Wales. The cases were distributed as follows:—

Cockfield	...	...	...	2
Evenwood	...	...	...	6

and one case from each of five villages.

Since the immunisation scheme was introduced in 1936, 472 children in the area were inoculated by the "one shot" method using Alum Precipitated Toxoid (A.P.T.). This number represents probably less than 20 per cent. of the children aged 1-11 years and is a disappointing result and also omits a very important age group in the incidence of diphtheria, i.e., ages 12-16.

50 cases of scarlet fever were notified, the rate being 3.00 per 1,000 of the population compared with 2.33 for England and Wales. The cases were distributed as follows:—

Cockfield	...	...	...	7
Evenwood	...	...	...	2
Staindrop	...	...	...	2
Middleton-in-Teesdale	...	...	...	10
Gainford	...	...	...	8
Butterknowle	...	...	...	3
Eggleson	...	...	...	3
Forest	...	...	...	6

and one case from each of nine villages.

It will be noted that most of the cases of scarlet fever occurred in the parishes of Cockfield, Middleton-in-Teesdale, Forest, and Gainford.

Two cases of dysentery were notified, both from Middleton-in-Teesdale. Immediate and full investigations were made to trace the source of infection, and all precautions were taken to prevent the spread of infection. No further outbreak occurred.

No action was taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year.

Disease	Total Cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever	50	49	1
Diphtheria	13	13	0
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Fever	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0
Erysipelas	3	0	0
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0	0
Acute Primary Pneumonia ...	7	0	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	0	0
Dysentery	2	0	0

Analysis of the Total Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) in age groups.

	Under 1 year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over
Scarlet Fever ...	0	1	2	2	2	22	12	2	5	4	0	0
Diphtheria ...	0	0	0	0	0	3	9	0	1	0	0	0
Pneumonia ...	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	2	0
Enteric Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
Erysipelas ...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0
Encephalitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery ...	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

Prevention of Blindness.

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Tuberculosis.

It was not found necessary to take any action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925 as no person engaged in the milk trade was notified as suffering from Tuberculosis.

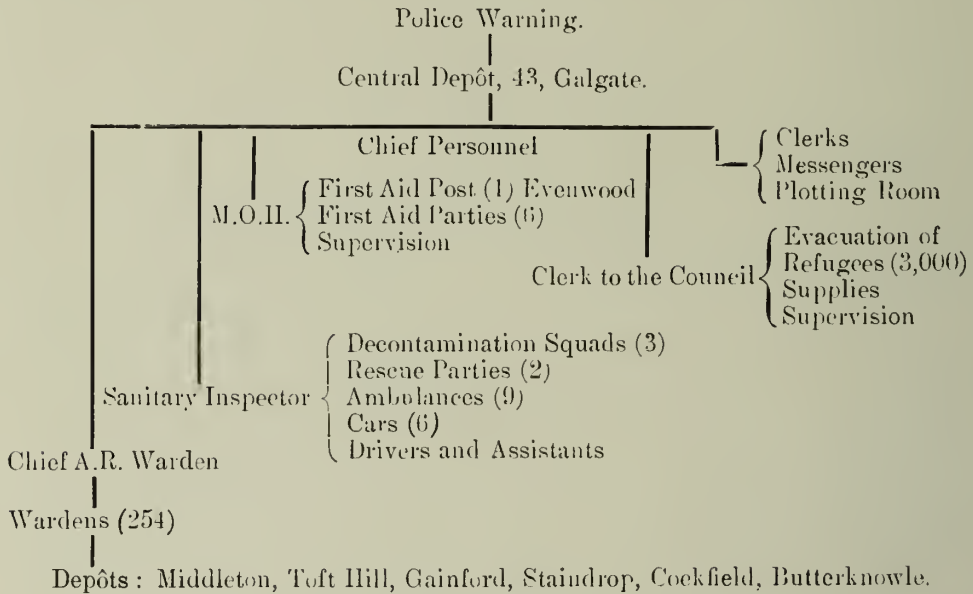
Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory M	F	Non-Respiratory M	F	Respiratory M	F	Non-Respiratory M	F
1 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 ...	...	...	3	2	...	...	...	...
15 ...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
25 ...	...	1	1	...	1	2	...	...
35 ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
45 ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
55 ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	3	2	4	4	1	3	0	0

Air Raid Precautions.

Following upon the A.R.P. Act of 1937 and the September Crisis, there has been an avalanche of Regulations and Orders from the Home Office and the Ministry of Health. With commendable promptitude and zeal the Health Officials at once tackled this problem and soon had initiated a workable scheme. The nucleus of the scheme consists of:—



At the present time we still have a shortage of women drivers for ambulances and men for decontamination services. A further supply of gas masks has now completed our quota.

Classes for First-Aid and Anti-Gas Courses were given by four of the local doctors and the Sanitary Inspector. The attendance of the volunteers was exceptionally good and all were keenly interested in the work.

**Barnard Castle Rural District
Council.**

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1938.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Barnard Castle Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith submit my annual report dealing with the sanitary circumstances of your district during the year ending 31st December, 1938.

This year has brought about many changes connected with Public Health matters and steady legislation is being consolidated, but duties are becoming correspondingly heavier. The result of the Government making Local Authorities responsible for the preparation and administration of Air Raid Precaution Schemes, has thrown a tremendous amount of work upon the Health Departments of Local Authorities, and as long as it remains, the health services are bound to be neglected, unless a separate department is organised to deal with it, or additional staff engaged to facilitate the burdens of these officials.

No outstanding changes in the policy of the various services was brought about during the year. It is, however, with the deepest regret that I must mention and pay tribute to the invaluable help I received from my predecessor, the late Mr. R. Brown. His tragic ending is still vivid in our memories, and though he has been relieved from the troubles of life his work, and the changes he helped to bring about for the betterment of the health of the district, will keep reminding us of his long and invaluable service to this Council. My colleague, Mr. Smith, has left me to fulfil the vacancy of Sanitary Surveyor to this Council, and I trust he will have an equally successful term of office.

A review of the year's work shows that the question of housing accommodation has taken a prominent part in the activities of the Health officials.

In February a Ministerial Inquiry was held into an application for the demolition of 13 houses in 5 Clearance Orders. Four orders were confirmed and in the other instance, proposals made for the reconditioning of the property by the owners, were accepted.

Further Orders were made during the year comprising some 44 houses.

I should like to see the proposals made by you for the rehousing of families living in overcrowded conditions, in the Eastern portion of our area actually materialise this coming year. Many obstacles have prevented the work being started before now, but at the time of writing they seem to have been overcome, and a course laid open for rapid progress.

No legal proceedings were found to be necessary during the year, the major portion of work required being completed amicably with those concerned.

Water.

The water supplies maintained their high quality of wholesomeness, and no complaints were received during the year, adverse to this report.

The Springs supplying the Council's schemes for Middleton-in-Teesdale, Woodland and Cockfield, considerably reduced their yield during the dry period of the year, but no shortage of any serious nature was encountered.

The Tees Valley Water Board supply from their mains passing through your area, the Townships of Whorlton, Winston, Westwick, Cleatlam, Staindrop, Gainford, Headlam, Ingleton, Hilton, and the Barnard Castle Darlington Road area of the Parish of Marwood. Other portions of the Parishes of Gainford, Marwood, and Winston abutting on to the main line, are connected as it passes by.

The Tees Valley Water Board obtain their water from the upper tributaries of the River Tees. This water being upland surface is of a soft character, and of a high standard of purity.

The Durham County Water Board supply the Eastern portion of the area, which includes the Townships of Hamsterley, Butterknowle, Evenwood, Toft Hill, Etherley, and a portion of Copley. This supply, too, is of the highest standard of purity, and is subjected to systematic chemical and bacteriological examination by this Board.

The Parishes supplied with schemes maintained by you are Newbiggin-in-Teesdale, Forest-in-Teesdale (portion), Middleton-in-Teesdale, Cockfield, Woodland, Streatlam and Stainton, Raby and Keverstone, and Wackerfield.

In the other portions of your area the supplies are either privately owned wells, or springs or public wells, which yield water of a satisfactory character, but trouble is experienced in many instances, due to shortage in droughty weather.

The pipe line from the Cat-level Spring, one of the springs on the Middleton-in-Teesdale supply, was relaid during the year with 2-inch asbestos pipes, the old pipes being non-socketed field pipes.

A small extension was made on the Cockfield line to the new houses provided by the North-Eastern Housing Association, at Long Lane, Cockfield.

SUPPLIES IN OTHER PARTS OF YOUR AREA.

Parish	No. of Houses	Village	Source of Supply
Bolam	26	Bolam.	Privately owned wells. Isolated houses : Privately owned wells. No piped supply.
Hamsterley	121	Hamsterley	Piped supply by Durham County Water Board. Isolated houses : Privately owned wells.
Hilton	20	Hilton	Piped Supply by Raby Estates (Lord Barnard). Isolated houses : Privately owned wells.

Langleydale & Shotton	38	Isolated houses : Piped supply to several houses by this Council (Woodland and Cockfield supplies extensions). Piped supply by Raby Estates (Lord Barnard) : Penny Hill Spring (4 houses). Kinninvie supply (extension of). Shotton supply (5 houses). Rest of Parish—Private wells.
Morton Tinnmouth	6	Piped supply (Hilton extension) by Raby Estates (Lord Barnard).
Raby & Keverstone	59	Piped supply to Raby Castle and surrounding area by Raby Estates (Lord Barnard). Piped supply to Raby Moor area (4 houses). Keverstone area piped supply by this Council (Extension from Wackerfield Water Supply). Other isolated houses : Private wells and springs.
South Bedburn	75	Privately owned wells and springs.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The new sewerage and sewage disposal schemes for the Parishes of Woodland, Lynesack and Softley, and Evenwood, were commenced in May. These schemes will do away with a large number of tanks and cesspools, which are constantly giving rise to general complaints.

A new 9-inch sewer was laid to replace an existing defective sewer at Cross Row, Lands.

A defective sewer at Alpine Terrace, Evenwood, was also replaced.

Messrs. Balfours, of Newcastle have been given instructions to make a survey, and report to you the probable cost of a scheme for the sewerage of Toft Hill. This scheme, too, is long overdue, and should you eventually decide to carry it out, another rung in the ladder of primitive sewerage schemes, taken over by you from the former Auckland District, will have been renewed.

The effluents from the existing sewage works in your area have on the whole been very satisfactory.

Rivers and Streams.

As in previous years the possible pollution of rivers and streams in your area, has been carefully looked for. No formal action was found to be necessary in connection with this, although complaints have been received about the pollution of the River Tees by washings from quarries in the upper regions of Teesdale. This matter is at present being investigated, and I hope the ground for complaints will soon be removed.

Closet Accommodation.

The privy conversion scheme referred to in my 1937 report to you, was not made effective during the year. At the time of writing, however, tenders are being invited for its execution.

After the completion of the new sewerage schemes, I should like to see you go forward with a further scheme for the conversion of closets to the water carriage system. It will be impossible to convert all closets in your area into water closets, as many portions of your area are extremely scattered, but at the present time there are still in existence some 2,940 ash-closets, and 1,057 ash pit privies, compared with 1,061 water closets, and it will be quite possible to considerably reduce this number.

The number of private conversions made during the year was 50 ash closets into water closets.

Public Cleansing.

No alterations in the general arrangement of District scavenging was made during the year.

New districts had to be formed in the portion of the Parish of West Auckland, on account of the County Review Order.

Scavenging on the whole was carried out satisfactorily, but every year the need becomes more apparent for direct scavenging in those portions of your district adaptable to it.

The cost of scavenging for the year amounted to £1,887.

New scavenging districts were formed for Headlam and the Barnard Castle, Darlington Road portion of the Parish of Marwood.

Refuse Disposal.

A new tip, for the disposal of the refuse collected from Staindrop, was provided at the south side of Dunn House Quarries, on the Barnard Castle-Bishop Auckland Road. This tip is extremely suitable, being an old Quarry Working, and should accommodate several years tippings.

The Gas House Lane tip at Middleton-in-Teesdale, has been closed, leaving only the Jack Scarr tip for this area.

There still remains 8 tips, provided by you, for the deposit of house refuse.

I must again pay mention to the unsuitable clauses in the agreement made with the Scavenging Contractors, which stipulate that where tips are not provided for the deposit of refuse, they shall provide their own tip for this disposal. The Contractors experience great difficulty in this connection, and instead of having the tipping controlled, refuse is spread over the field, which to say the least, is very distracting to the natural amenities of the area concerned.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following is a statement of the number and nature of inspections made during the year under the various Acts, Orders and Byelaws in force within your District.

	Visits.
Slaughter-houses and Meat Inspection	645
Housing Matters	1,132
Sanitary Accommodation, Drainage and Sewage Disposal ...	1,106
Disinfection and Infectious Diseases	80
Milk and Dairies	216
Shops, etc.	62
Scavenging and Refuse Disposal	2,385
Water Supplies	17
Offensive Trades	34
Factories and Workshops	59
Other matters	118
Total ...	5,854

Summary of Notices served.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.	Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice
Dwelling-houses { Foul Condition	—	—	—
and Schools { Structural Defects	70	1	38
{ Overcrowding	1	—	—
Lodging-houses	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops	7	—	6
Cowsheds	6	—	6
Bakehouses	—	—	—
Slaughter-houses	2	—	2
Ash-pits and Privies	9	1	9
Deposits of Refuse and Manure	8	—	8
Water-closets	1	—	1
Defective Yard Paving	7	—	6
House { Defective Traps	—	—	—
Drainage { No Disconnection from Sewers	2	—	2
{ Other Faults	20	—	19
Water Supply	5	—	5
Pigsties	1	—	1
Animals Improperly Kept	3	—	3
Offensive Trades	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	2	—	1
Other Nuisances	20	—	17
Verminous Premises	—	—	—
Totals ...	164	2	124

WATER, FOOD AND DRUGS. Number.

Samples of Water taken for Analysis	...	...	5
„ „ condemned as unfit for use	...	...	3
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	...	...	1
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food	...	...	—
Samples of Food & Drugs taken for Analysis	...	...	—
„ „ found Adulterated	...	...	—

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE. Number.

Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	...	52
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	...	52
Schools do. do. ...	...	1
Prosecutions for exposures of infected persons	...	—
or things	...	—
Convictions for do. do. do. ...	...	—

Shops.

Shops have been inspected during the year to ensure that the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934, were being complied with in relation to Temperature, Ventilation, and Sanitary Accommodation. No breach of the regulations was noticed to give rise to any formal procedure.

Such matters requiring attention were brought to the notice of the occupiers in an informal manner, it being found that much can be obtained by persuasion.

There was no cause to make any special report to you on this subject, as no great difficulty was experienced in its administration.

Camping Sites.

No licences are granted by you for Camping Sites within your area.

One application was received for permission to use a moveable dwelling on a site at Ingleton, but this was refused.

Smoke Abatement.

No cases of nuisance caused by smoke came under observation during the year. Fortunately in an area like ours little time is necessary in connection with this matter.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are none provided in the area.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

It was not found necessary to cause any houses to be disinfected for the destruction of Bed Bugs, during the year.

Schools.

The Council School at Forest-in-Teesdale has been connected to the Council's water main, from the Newbiggin water supply.

The Sanitary Accommodation and Water Supplies at the other Schools in your area, remain without alteration.

Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(1) By Local Authority	— Nil
(2) By Private Enterprise	— 18
(3) By N.E.H.A. through the L.A.	— 18

1. *Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	320
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	642
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	107
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	292
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	86
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	52

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	74
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3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

(a)—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	30
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ...	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

(b)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

(c)—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ...	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	—

(d)—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|---|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | ... | — |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | ... | — |

4. *Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding:—*

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| (a)—(i.) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year | 186 |
| (ii.) Number of families dwelling therein | ... 186 |
| (iii.) Number of persons dwelling therein | ... 1,080 |
| (b)—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | 1 |
| (c)—(i.) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year | 103 |
| (ii.) Number of persons concerned in such cases | ... 558 |
| (d)—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | ... — |
| (e)—Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report | ... — |

Housing (Rural) Workers Acts.

Good progress was made during the year with the improvement of property for the Agricultural Population or persons of similar economic conditions, under these Acts.

The position at 31st December, 1938, is given in the tabulated statement below.

Purposes for which assistance required	NUMBER OF DWELLINGS in respect of which applications for grants have been:			Assistance promised by the Council		Assistance given by the Council		Number of dwellings	
	made to the Council	refused by the Council	with-drawn by the applicants	Total amounts grants promised	Number of dwellings concerned	Total amounts of grants paid	No of dwellings concerned	On which work has been finished	On which work has been commenced but not finished
(i) Conversion of buildings not previously used as dwellings into dwellings	14	4	0	£1,000	10	£900	9	9	1
(ii) Improvement of existing dwellings	153	5	3	£13,416	115	£9,319	102	104	16
(iii) Total	167	9	3	£14,416	155	£10,219	111	113	17

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

At the end of the year the total number of farms registered in the District was 794, 738 producing ordinary milk or butter. 40 producing Accredited milk, and 16 producing Tuberculin Tested milk.

These premises were examined at regular intervals, and alterations carried out to cowsheds in accordance with suggestions.

A Licence was granted to the Bishop Auckland Co-operative Society Limited, to use the designation, "Pasteurised" in relation to milk retailed in this area.

Out of the 40 Accredited Producers, 10 bottle milk on their own premises, and 4 of the 16 T.T. Producers also hold a licence for this purpose.

Milk samples were procured from persons trying to obtain a licence to produce a designated milk supply, and in the majority of cases these samples were satisfactory at the first test. In all 15 samples were taken, 10 proving satisfactory upon "first-time" sampling.

Meat and Other Foods.

630 visits were made to slaughter-houses, before, during and after slaughter, and inspections carried out of carcasses and all organs before removal from the premises.

The scattered situation of the the slaughter-houses render the inspection of all meat, "exposed for sale," an acute and most difficult problem. Slaughtering takes place chiefly on Mondays and Thursdays in each week, and while memorandum 62 (Foods), being a "system" of meat inspection recommended by the Ministry of Health for adoption by Local Authorities, may be regarded as a first essential for securing uniformity both of inspection and decision, has proved very valuable, difficulty has been found due to receiving notice of intention to slaughter on premises miles apart at times fixed for the same hour on particular days.

The majority of animals are purchased from markets at Barnard Castle, Darlington, and Bishop Auckland, and most cattle, sheep and pigs are brought to the slaughter-houses in motor vans.

Isolated cases of slaughtering on private premises were notified, the animals slaughtered being pigs. These were examined and in two instances the heads were affected with T.B. and surrendered.

Ante-mortem inspections have been carried out as far as possible, and in a number of cases judgment of the live animals has gone far to locate the origin of disease found in the carcass.

Results of post-mortem examinations and the number of carcasses examined are shown by the following table.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	233	350	2	445	319
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	13	—	13	—
Percentage of the number affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	3.0	3.7	—	2.9	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	3	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	31	—	—	20
Percentage of the number inspec- ted affected with tuberculosis	3.4	9.7	—	—	6.2

Of the 1,349 carcasses examined, 66 were slaughtered by occasional slaughter and 5 by emergency. All meat found to be diseased was voluntarily surrendered and destroyed under supervision, the amounts being:

Meat	2,599 lbs.
Offals	1,157 lbs.
Total	3,756 lbs.

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1925.

Notices.

The year under review was the 13th complete annual record of the administration of these Regulations.

It is necessary under these Regulations to give notice to the Local Authority of the intention to slaughter animals for human food. Where, however, persons slaughter animals at fixed times on fixed days one notice to this effect will suffice. People contravening these requirements are punishable by fine. I have found that this condition has not been strictly adhered to in the past, but unless attention is given to this I will be compelled to make a report to you. In a district so widely scattered as this, difficulty is experienced in examining whole the animals slaughtered without being impeded unnecessarily in this direction by persons killing on days in contravention of their notices.

Considering these regulations broadly, however, they have proved very effective, and work thereunder has progressed smoothly.

Shops, Stores, etc.

Shops in use for the purpose of selling meat, and coming within the scope of Part V. of these Regulations are frequently visited and their conditions have been found clean and satisfactory.

Transport and Handling.

There are no wholesale markets for meat in your area, with the result very little handling is done. The transport side receives my closest attention and frequently inspections are carried out of the vans as the butchers are doing their rounds. The butchers themselves give this matter their closest attention, and no complaints of any nature had to be made.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

There are 59 licensed slaughter-men practising in the Area, 48 slaughtering at registered and licensed slaughter-houses. Licences to slaughter animals are granted for periods of three years.

Mechanically operated instruments are used for stunning animals, but as yet none are operated by electricity.

Slaughter-Houses.

24 slaughter-houses exist in the area, 4 are registered and 20 licensed.

The table shows the slaughter-houses registered and licensed in the District, now in use.

DISTRICT.	SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.	
	Licensed.	Registered.
Butterknowle	1	0
Cockfield and Lands	3	0
Copley	0	1
Evenwood	0	1
Etherley and Toft Hill	4	1
Gainford	2	0
Hamsterley	1	0
Ingleton	1	0
Middleton-in-Teesdale	4	0
Staindrop	2	0
Woodland	0	1
West Auckland	2	0
TOTAL	20	4

One new slaughter-house was licenced, this being at Toft Hill.

The slaughter-houses are conducted in a satisfactory manner. Verbal notice, in the majority of cases, has been found quite ample to rectify any violation of the law.

Adulteration.

Action found necessary was taken by Officers of the County Council operating in the Area.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

With the exception of milk sampling, no other food sampling was found necessary.

Nutrition.

Dissemination of knowledge on the subject: None.

Shell Fish (Molluscan).

No shell-fish beds or layings are situated within the district.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

From particulars given in the Home Office Form 572, it will be seen that notices served during the year were not numerous, this we attribute to the regular inspections and amicable co-operation with the management.

Of the 59 inspections made, 24 were to Factories with mechanical power, 20 to Factories without mechanical power, and 15 to other premises.

There are no outworkers as defined by the Factory and Workshops Acts in the Area.

Two notices were served for Sanitary Accommodation and remedied.

Petroleum Storage.

There are 51 premises licensed in the Area for the storage of petroleum spirit. These are licensed to store a total of 40,100 gallons, and the total income amounts to £27 5s. paid annually for these licences.

Only eight premises are licensed for the storage of Carbide of Calcium, these licences permit the storage of 8,000 lbs. and bring in an annual income of £2.

Inspections in connection with the above were of an informal nature and received my closest attention.

CONCLUSION.

From the foregoing report it will be seen that all the branches of the Sanitary Department receive my closest attention.

I think you will agree that progress in many directions has been made, and I hope will continue to be made. It is impossible to relax our activities in the administration of Public Health matters. The public are demanding better housing conditions, adequate and wholesome water supplies, modern sanitary appliances, and surely these demands are reasonable.

It is up to us, as people entrusted with the administration and supervision of these services, to see that they are extended to whole classes of our community, and in this direction I must thank the members of the Council and officials for their sincere efforts.

Trusting that the year ahead will be equally as successful as the year reviewed,

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

JOHN GEORGE MIDDLETON,

Sanitary Inspector.

